

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 26, 28-46, 49, 52-67, 69 and 71-89 are pending in this application. Claims 27, 47, 50, 51, 68 and 70 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 82-89 are new.

Claims 26-47 and 49-80 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,309,896 to Moll et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,048,329 to Thompson et al. Claims 49, 50 and 52-70 were rejected as being obvious over Moll in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,213 to Haissaguerie et al. Claims 36, 37, 57, 58, 79 and 80 were rejected as being obvious over Moll in view of Thompson or Haissaguerie and, further, in view of Jones.

Applicant submits that claims 26-47 and 49-80 are allowable over the cited art since the claims are supported by priority application Serial No. 08/735,036, filed October 27, 1996, now abandoned. As such, Thompson, Haissaguerie and Jones are not prior art to the present claims.

Applicant submits that claims 26-47 and 49-80 are allowable since Moll taken alone does not render the claims obvious.

Applicant has amended the priority claim to delete applications filed before Serial No. 08/735,036, filed October 27, 1996 and also submits herewith a Petition to Delete Inventors under 37 CFR 1.48(b).

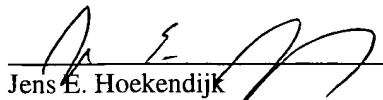
Independent claim 26 has also been amended to include a limitation that should have been included when this claim was amended into independent form. Applicant appreciates the prior indication that independent claim 26 is allowable and Applicant apologizes for the oversight.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-412-3322.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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